

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend paragraph [0032] as follows:

[0032] Note that the processing performed at the GSs (e.g., arbitration) is performed in a decentralized manner; in other words, each GS need not maintain state information about each iFG, but rather can use the state information for each RTS received at that particular GS and received from each iFG within a particular period of time. In addition, note that as a data cell transits the switch fabric (after a CTS has been received at an iFG), a substantial delay while routing does not occur because the MDs do not perform arbitration and extensive buffering is not required. In ~~face~~, fact, the amount of delay while routing is approximately the time associated with a few cells (due to the MDs) and the time associated with one frame (due to the GSs).